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## THE WASHINGTON POST 28 May 1980

A Complaint to PBS

The Association of Former Intelligence Officers has asked the Public Broadcasting Service for a haif-hour to respond to the recent three-hour documentary called "On Company Business," which was put together by independent producers . . .

In a telegram to PBS President Lawrence K. Grossman ... Association President John F. Blake called "On Company Business" ... a tendentious television review of intelligence history and function," adding that "we are astounded that PBS offered a forum for an alleged documentary which carries the sordid imprimatur of Phil Agee, special consultant":

Blake's telegram identifies Agee as the "CIA's first defector" . . .

The telegram also said the association's 3,000 members "are dismayed and shocked that PBS has devoted three hours to devious, insidious and at times false history on an issue of public interest—the role of intelligence operations in American foreign-policy"

Grossman said yesterday that PBS hadn't had a chance to study the request but Barry Chase PES director of current affairs programming, said it doesn't seem likely the request for the half-hour will be granted....

Said Chase: "The telegram conven-

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iently ignores the fact that William Colby and David Atlee Phillips, both articulate defenders of the CIA, appeared on the program, and their telegram appears to be a viscerally negative reaction to the appearance of Agee..."

Phillips, who is a former chief of CIA operations in Latin-America-and is now board chairman of the association, said yesterday that in addition to the complaints made indethe telegram-both he and former CIA director Colby were interviewed for the series "three, maybe 3 yearsago" and that neither he nor Colby would have agreed to be interviewed if "we'd known that subsequently we'd be appearing with Agee in the way the program was presented" . . . The documentary which aired over three Fridays on PBS during Francovich and Howard Dratch . .

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